ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

ADAMS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTGOMERY, ALA.,

JULY 28TH, 29TH & 30TH, 1897.

OFFICERS.

T. L. JONES, MODERATOR.....MONTGOMERY, ALA.
J. C. POPE, CLERK & TREASURER.....MONTGOMERY, ALA.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

G. G. MILES, Montgomery. J. C. POPE, Montgomery.
R. H. HUDSON, Millbrook. W. B. HOLMES, Montgomery.
A. H. EUBANKS, Pine Level.

COMMITTEES TO REPORT AT NEXT SESSION.

ON HOME MISSIONS—Prof. Geo. W. Thomas, O. S. Siler, R. H. Hudson.
FOREIGN MISSIONS—C. A. Gunn, E. R. Fountain, J. G. Mills.
STATE MISSIONS—J. B. Collier, J. R. McLendon, J. C. Stratford.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS—J. I. Lamar, W. L. Chandler, W. B. Davidson.
TEMPERANCE—C. W. Buck, Jos. Norsworthy, G. J. Thrasher.
DENOMINATI'L EDUCAT'N—Geo. W. Ellis, J. F. Hattemer, W. H. Kendrick.
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION—J. G. Harris, A. H. Eubanks, B. A. Jackson.
WOMAN'S WORK—J. L. Thompson, Cabot Lull, Amos Jones.
ORPHANS' HOME—C. L. Gay, M. W. Bishop, W. P. Dawson.
INDIGENT MINISTERS—J. F. Gable, W. E. Lacy, F. M. Sullivant.
BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION—W. D. Gay, E. L. Devant, W. R. Meadows.
NEW AND WEAK CHURCHES—W. J. Elliott, J. B. Bell, J. T. Boyd.

The next session will be held with the church at Lowndesboro, twenty miles west of Montgomery, on the Western Railway of Alabama, time to be fixed by the Executive Committee (so as not to conflict with other meetings of the denomination).

ALABAMA PRINTING CO. MONTGOMERY.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

Geo. B. Eager	Montgomery,	Ala.
Wm. D. Gay	"	"
W. J. Elliott	"	"
J. F. Gable	"	"
J. L. Thompson	"	"
G. W. Townsend	"	"
C. Johnson	"	"
E. F. Baber	"	"
W. N. Gunter	"	"
C. W. Buck	"	"
B. A. Jackson	Ramer,	"
J. R. Caldwell	Deatsville,	"
W. G. Sullivant	Raif Branch,	"
C. J. Bentley	Ashland,	"
W. C. Avant	Rutledge,	"
Geo. E. Brewer	Opelika,	"
J. J. Nelson	Harmony,	"
I. N. Langston	Six Mile,	"
N. C. Underwood	Brundidge,	"
J. S. Yarbrough	Orion,	"
A. T. Sims	Georgiana,	"
A. E. Pinckard	China Grove,	"

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Fix time of meeting and adjourning.
4. Introductory sermon.
5. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
6. Receive correspondents and visitors.
7. Receive petitions from Churches desiring membership.
8. Appoint committees to report during session—
   - On Religious Exercises.
   - On Finance and Auditing.
   - On Nominations.
   - On Apportionment.
9. Read rules of order.
10. Hear reports from Committees and Treasurer.
11. Return correspondence.
12. Appoint committees to report at next session—
    - On Home Missions.
    - On Foreign Missions.
    - On Sunday Schools.
    - On Temperance.
    - On Denominational Education.
    - On State Board of Missions.
    - On Ministerial Education.
    - On Indigent Ministers.
    - On Woman's Work.
    - On Orphans' Home.
    - On Baptist Young People's Union.
    - On New and Weak Churches.
13. Hear miscellaneous business.
14. Call roll and erase absentees.
15. Arrange for printing minutes.
16. Correct minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1897.

MORNING SESSION.

The Montgomery Baptist Association assembled in its Sixteenth Annual Session with the Adams Street Baptist church, Montgomery, Wednesday, July 28th, 10 o'clock a. m., T. L. Jones, Moderator, J. C. Pope, Clerk.

Devotional exercises conducted by Bro. J. R. McLendon, who read the 23rd Psalm. Prayer by Bro. W. R. Ivey.

Moderator appointed the following

Committee on Credentials—Cabot Lull, R. H. Hudson, W. B. Holmes.

Words of welcome by pastors W. D. Gay, J. L. Thompson, J. F. Gable, and Bro. J. G. Harris (on behalf of First Baptist church, in absence of the pastor, Dr. Eager).

Sang No. 252 in Pentecostal Hymns, and engaged in handshaking at suggestion of Bro. J. G. Harris.

On motion, Bro. Hobson was voted to discuss Foreign Missions this afternoon in place of Rev. J. L. Thompson, and Rev. J. M. Frost instead of Dr. Bledsoe at 8:30 p. m. to-day on Missions.

Sang "A charge to keep I have."

Recess 10 minutes.

Sang "Come ye that love the Lord."

Rev. W. J. Elliott read the latter part of the 2nd chapter of Acts, and preached the Baptist introductory sermon from Acts 2:42.

Sang "Blest be the tie that binds."

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Frost.

Moderator announced that Dr. Frost would conduct the devotional services at 3 p. m. to-day.

On motion of Bro. Gay, Revs. J. M. Frost and W. C. Bledsoe and Bro. J. G. Harris were elected to represent us and to welcome the Alabama Baptist Congress (colored), now in session at First Baptist church (colored).

Adjourned till 3 p. m., with doxology.

AFTERNOON.

The Association met at 3 p. m.

Devotional services conducted by Rev. J. M. Frost.

The Committee on Credentials not being ready, on motion the report on State Missions was read by Rev. C. Johnson, Chairman. Discussed by Revs. J. M. Frost and G. S. Anderson, and continued.

The Committee on Credentials made its report.

Report on Credentials.

To the Montgomery Baptist Association:

Your Committee on Credentials beg leave to make the following report:

Adams Street—W. D. Gay, E. F. Baber, Geo. W. Thomas, Geo. W. Ellis, C. L. Gay, Jno. F. Robertson, W. L. Chandler, A. P. Wilson, B. A. Blakey, H. A. Cook, S. B. Sightler, D. C. Bachelor, J. W. Powell, S. C. Weathersbee, J. M. Bedgood, T. J. Scott, G. J. Thrasher W. G. Yelverton. H. L. Martin, W. J. Proctor, Victor Hilton, Carter Wade, J. C. Pope.

Bethany—J. J. Clifton, W. P. Dawson, J. S. Turner.

Bethel—(Ft. Deposit) C. A. Gunn, Peter Kolb, M. W. Bishop, J. B. Farrior, R. R. Hairston, J. W. Phillips, E. F. Goldsmith, I. N. Jordan, H. C. Burdeshaw, J. E. Bishop, J. F. Hattemer, J. M. Black.

Bethesda—W. V. Bell, J. T. Boyd.

Clayton Street—J. L. Thompson, W. B. Holmes, Frank Allen, J. L. Sayre, R. L. Dillard, R. W. B. Merritt, L. S. Jones, A. D. Caver, O. S. Siler, A. Wintereth, H. Chilson, B. McGowan. E. S. Hugger, Charles Seaton.

Coosada—R. H. Hudson, D. J. Moore, D. P. Moore.

Deatsville—E. R. Fountain, J. I. Lamar, McD. Morgan.

First Montgomery—George B. Eager, J. C. Stratford, J. G. Harris. W. B. Davidson, H. W. Parrish, C. W. Buck, H. P. Dawson, E. L. Dexant, Philo Dix, G. G. Miles.

Friendship—F. M. Sullivant, C. V. Collier, George Harris.

Hayneville—letter.

Hope Hull—J. G. Mills, T. A. Fowler, Rev. C. Johnson.

Lowndesboro—W. J. Elliott, W. R. Meadows, J. W. Rast, E. W. Robinson.

Mt. Hebron—W. H. Kendrick, C. P. Mercer, A. D. Henderson.

Mt. Lebanon—Jos. Norsworthy (Sisters A. R. Owens and Cora Turnipseed, visitors).

Mt. Zion—Amos Jones, G. W. Johnson, Sr., W. E. Reasonover.

Pine Level—F. V. Battle, J. L. Dozier, A. H. Eubanks.

Prattville—E. E. Gresham, B. W. Gresham, H. A. Logan. W. M. Robertson.

Ramer—B. A. Jackson, J. R. McLendon, J. J. McLendon.

South Montgomery—J. F. Gable, J. B. Collier, A. L. Bayne, J. J. Barnett, L. E. Moncrief.

Wetumpka—Cabot Lull, W. E. Lacy, C. S. Chapman, W. A. Austin, C. C. Edwards.

Respectfully submitted,

Cabot Lull,
R. H. Hudson,
W. B. Holmes.
Committee.

[NOTE.—It has heretofore been the custom of the Committee on Credentials to report to the Association the names of those delegates only who were present. The above list is made up from the church letters, and does not represent the actual attendance. While a motion prevailed to postpone in order to secure the names of delegates present, nothing further was done about it.—CLERK.]

On motion of Bro. Thompson, the list of delegates was continued till to-morrow morning, in order to perfect it as near as possible.

On motion, Clerk cast vote of Association for present Moderator.

On motion of Bro. Ellis, Bro. Lull cast vote of Association for the present Clerk.

On motion of Bro. Gay, Bro. W. B. Holmes was elected Treasurer of the Association.

On motion, reading of the church letters was postponed till to-morrow 10:30 a. m.

Rev. W. J. Elliott, Chairman, read the report on Home Missions. Discussion deferred.

On motion, the Association voted to hear report on Denominational Education, which was read by Bro. Wm. Meadows, and Bros. W. A. Hobson and J. G. Harris spoke to the same.

On motion, Rev. A. J. Dickinson spoke on behalf of Ministerial Education.

Adjourned with prayer by Bro. Thompson.

EVENING.

Association assembled at 8 p. m. Song.

Moderator announced the following Committees:

On Credentials—C. Lull, W. B. Holmes, R. H. Hudson.

Finance and Auditing—W. V. Bell, W. B. Holmes, J. I. Lamar.

Nominations, Time and Place—J. R. McLendon, W. P. Dawson, A. H. Eubanks.

Apportionment—C. A. Gunn, W. B. Davidson, G. W. Ellis.

Sang "There is a fountain filled with blood."

Prayer by Bro. J. R. McLendon.

Rev. J. F. Gable read portions of 9th chapter of Isaiah and 4th chapter of Matthew.

Prayer by Dr. Frost.

Sang "Wonderful story of love."

Rev. J. F. Gable preached the missionary sermon from Isaiah 9:2-7.

Sang "Seeking the lost."

Report on Foreign Missions not being ready, Chairman was given further time.

Sang "At the cross."

The Moderator requested that Bro. W. J. Elliott prepare report on Ministerial Education, in absence of Rev. John Bass Shelton.

Dismissed with prayer by Dr. C. W. Buck.

THURSDAY.

MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Devotional exercises conducted by Bro. Cabot Lull.

Prayer by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.

The following petition was received from Letohatchee church for membership:

The Baptist Church at Letohatchee to the Montgomery Association—Greeting:

DEAR BRETHREN: We ask admittance into the Montgomery Baptist Association and send as delegates brethren E. Farrior, C. W. Powell, Rev. John Frymire and Rev. H. W. Beville.

We take the New Testament alone as our Creed and Confession of Faith.

E. FARRIOR,
D. S. HURST,
Committee.

Done by order of the Church, in Conference, July 26, 1897.

H. W. BEVILLE,
Moderator.

CHURCH STATISTICS—Present membership, 28; licentiates, 2.

CHURCH DIRECTORY—Pastor, H. W. Beville; post office, Letohatchee, Ala.; Clerk, C. W. Powell; post office, Letohatchee, Ala.; preaching on first and third Sundays; church building in Lowndes county; value of church building, $1,500.

On motion, a committee, composed of J. L. Thompson, George W. Thomas, J. R. McLendon and G. G. Miles, was appointed to consider the letter and to report on same.

The following visitors were welcomed and invited to take part in the discussions:

Baptist State Board of Missions—Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.
S. S. Board of Sou. Bap. Con.—Rev. J. M. Frost.
Judson Institute and Selma Ass'n—Rev. A. J. Dickinson.
Howard College—Profs. H. M. Roof, E. P. Hogan, Rev. M. M. Wood.
Alabama Baptist—J. A. Howard.
Birmingham Association—Rev. W. R. Ivey.
Troy Association—Rev. N. C. Underwood.
Tuskegee Association—Rev. G. S. Anderson, Prof. W. D. Fonville.
Letohatchee Church—Dr. H. W. Beville.
Orphans' Home—Mrs. S. J. Ansley.

The report on Foreign Missions was offered by Rev. J. L. Thompson, Chairman.

The Clerk read the church letters.

The hour for preaching having arrived, Rev. W. R. Ivey, of Bessemer, conducted the services. Song.

A portion of the 24th Psalm was read by Bro. Ivey.

Sang "My faith looks up to thee."

Talk by Bro. Ivey on passages from different portions of the Scriptures suggested by the brethren.

Resumed discussion of Mission reports, by Dr. Bledsoe.

The Committee to consider the application of the Letohatchee church, through Rev. J. L. Thompson, Chairman reported as follows:

We, your Committee to whom was referred the application of the Letohatchee church, submit the following report:

Upon an investigation we find that there was no ordained minister present at the constitution, which, however, does not invalidate the regularity of the organization, but we are of the opinion that it would have been better and more prudent to have had the counsel and advice of a presbytery of ordained preachers. We therefore recommend that the Association receive the Letohatchee church, provided the said church, in conference assembled and by vote of the church, adopt the Philadelphia or New Hampshire Baptist Confession of Faith, and so report to this Association at its next session.

J. L. Thompson,
Geo. W. Thomas,
J. R. McLendon,
G. G. Miles,
Committee.

Report discussed by Revs. H. W. Beville, C. Johnson and J. L. Thompson.

On motion, adjourned with benediction by Bro. M. M. Wood, to meet at 3:30 o'clock.

AFTERNOON.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Sang "My soul, be on thy guard."

Remarks by Rev. J. L. Thompson G. G. Miles and J. A. Howard in support of the report concerning the Letohatchee church, and by Rev. H. W. Beville in opposition.

On motion, the report was adopted.

On motion, the Mission reports were adopted.

Report on State Missions.

Of the twenty members who compose the State Board of Missions, seven reside in the city of Montgomery, which seven constitute a quorum. This is some advantage, in that business can be transacted should all the other members fail to be present.

OBJECT OF THE BOARD.

It must be understood that the object of the Board is not to supply men with work and homes, but to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the destitute parts of our State. Whether this be done through evangelists, missionary-pastors, colporters, or all of these agencies combined, matters not, so the end is attained by "gathering up the fragments."

DUTY OF THE BOARD.

It is the duty of the Board to collect money for State, Home and Foreign Missions; to appoint evangelists who are properly qualified,

called of God, equipped and sent out by the Holy Spirit, and to see that such men shall confine their work within their limited territory and do the work assigned them by the Board.

Each evangelist is entitled to a salary of $1,000, provided he gives all his time to the State Board. Should an evangelist give three-fourths of his time to the Board, he is entitled to a salary of $800. But no one of the evangelists is entitled to $300 salary for one-half or one-fourth of his time. Should an evangelist, after accepting the work offered by the Board, decide to do something apart from the work assigned, he forfeits all the salary promised by the Board.

The State Board of Missions have now five evangelists and one in "general work." Through the consecrated work of these men we hope, next November, to find our State Board of Missions in a healthy condition.

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Confidence of the Baptists ought to be maintained, and if once lost must be regained by adoption of means justifying the end.

2. Allow no evangelist to organize a church unless it can be made self-sustaining or held as a mission station, or supplied by a missionary-pastor or supported by the Board. To organize a church as weak and helpless as an infant, and leave it to take care of itself, is the meanest thing the Baptists ever did.

3. Let the Board help all the churches now in need of aid, or abolish that department in toto. Helping one church and ignoring another seems to be a matter of purest selfishness.

ECONOMY.

Great care ought to be exercised to restrict the expenses of administration, particularly the expenses for collecting funds. It cannot be claimed that the officers and employes of our Board are paid extravagant salaries, but they are paid very fair, and, as a rule, traveling expenses in addition, when about the Board's business. It is an easy thing to be liberal and generous with other people's money. These funds are a sacred trust, given for a sacred purpose, and should be most economically used. The usages of mercantile firms and other societies are not to govern us. We act, not for ourselves, but for others—for Christ and his cause.

A WORD OF CAUTION.

To use Hiscox's suggestion as to the future—not to discourage hope, but to moderate enthusiasm—"the unusual strain of the present year to secure enlarged contributions for the payment of debts, in addition to funds for current expenses, will lessen contributions for current expenses next year. Multitudes of contributors will 'take rest' for a while on this important part of Christian service, and the cause will suffer by their withholding. The managers of our Board ought to take into account this almost certain result."

C. JOHNSON,
Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The field of the Home Mission Board embraces all the Southern States, the Indian Territory, Oklahoma and the Island of Cuba. A majority of the Baptists in the world live on this field. We have every evidence that the blessings of God are resting upon this agency.

The Board began the last conventional year with a debt of $8,000, and the obligation to pay $5,700 on a house of worship in New Orleans,

making a total debt of $13,700. The report however, made at the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention, is cheerful, hopeful and inspiring. The $13,700 was paid and the Board is now out of debt. The following is a summary of the work done the past year: 375 missionaries were employed; there were 4,709 baptisms; received by letter, 4,746; constituted 129 churches; built 57 houses of worship and organized 313 Sunday-schools, and in addition to this, much other work was done.

The total cash received from all sources for the work of the Home Mission Board was $59,184.09; value of merchandise, $19,090.26, making a total of $78,274.35. The work of the Board in Alabama is confined almost exclusively to the colored people. In connection with other Boards, they have had three missionaries working in the State during the past year, and the work seems to be gratifying to all concerned.

The work in the Indian Territory, in the main, looks toward the development of the churches and Christian education of these people. These churches are becoming, in consequence of this work, self-sustaining, and are sending the gospel to the wild tribes farther west.

The present condition of our work in Cuba is not very encouraging and inspiring. The pastors are all in this country. When it was no longer safe for them to remain at their posts, by advice of the Board they came to Florida, where most of them have been laboring among the large Cuban population in that State. The schools and churches in Cuba are still in operation. The brethren and sisters await in prayer and hope for the dawning of a better day.

The work among the foreign population is a hard and difficult work and needs to be greatly extended. In its last report the Board expresses its grateful acknowledgment to the Woman's Mission Societies, denominational papers, Sunday-schools and other agencies for material help. There is cause for gratitude to God for the success that has attended our work in the past. But we have not done our full duty yet. There are in our Association 2,835 members, and they contributed last year $267 for Home Missions, which is a fraction over 10 cents per capita. We earnestly recommend that in the future we be more liberal in giving of our means for the great cause of Home Missions.

Respectfully submitted.

W. J. Elliott,
Chairman.

Report on Foreign Missions.

The past year has been full of the blessings of our Heavenly Father on the work which he has entrusted to us in foreign lands. There were 660 baptisms in connection with our work last year. It is a fact that causes great joy to know that the idea of self-support is rapidly developing in our various mission fields. This is one of the good things that has resulted from the severe financial needs of the Board. These young churches have been helped by us so long that they did not realize that self-dependence and independence which they should. The necessary withholding of funds has caused the missionaries to push this principle of self-help upon them, and the result has been a blessed awakening of native strength, not before realized. Quite a number of these mission churches are now paying a part or all of their expenses, including pastors' salary, and several have built houses of worship, paying all the cost themselves. The Board has not paid a

cent for building houses of worship in foreign lands for years, except what the giver designated for that purpose.

This has been a most trying year on the finances of the Board. At the Convention in Washington there was reported a debt of $32,000. As a result of the effort made at that Convention, about $12,000 came into the treasury of the Board, which helped very much at a time when it was greatly needed. At the Convention in Wilmington a sufficient amount was pledged by the churches and Associations to liquidate the entire debt of the Board, but many of these have not been redeemed, and some of them will never be paid. By reference to the report of the Treasurer of the Board it will be seen that $125,-681.99 was collected during the last convention year. The expenditures were $107,314.07, which enabled the payment of $18,367 79 on the old debt, leaving a debt of $13,532.79 against that of $31,900.71 the previous year.

Alabama, with her 77 Associations, 805 preachers, 1,702 churches, and 117,536 members, contributed $6,563.29 during the year.

A simple calculation shows that of all funds received by the Board, about ninety-two cents on the dollar went to the missionaries. That is, eight cents was used for all expenses here including interest and the cost of the Woman's Missionary Union. The interest account ran up the expenses 1.7 per cent., so that the actual expenses were only a little over six cents on the dollar.

Your special attention is called to the Maryland Baptist Mission Rooms, 304 North Howard Street, Baltimore, Md., which is well supplied with tracts and missionary literature on different foreign fields, especially those connected with our Convention work. The Mission Prayer Card, with topics for each month, is quite a convenience and help to those who wish to study our mission work systematically. The literature furnished by the Rooms is well prepared and instructive. Pastors and mission leaders will do well to confer with the Rooms and get supplies for their work.

Some people seem to think that our mission work is at a standstill, or retrograding. It is well to consider some figures. In 1877, twenty years ago, we had 16 missionaries and 32 native assistants—48 workers in all. The contributions were $32,276.00. In 1887, ten years ago, we had 116 missionaries and native assistants, 228 baptisms, 1,551 members, and the contributions were $80,830.53. In 1897 there were reported 190 missionaries and native assistants, 660 baptisms, 4,324 members, and $125,681.99 in contributions.

This year's report, with the large increase in gifts at home and the large number of converts on the foreign field, should fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. Thompson,
Chairman.

The report on Ministerial Education was read by Rev. W. J. Elliott, discussed with report on Denominational Education by Rev. M. M. Wood Prof. F. M. Roof, T. L. Jones (C. W. Buck in the chair) and J. F. Gable, and, on motion, both adopted.

Report on Denominational Education.

Our colleges have ever been a source of strength to our denomination. From them have emanated influences which have been potent factors in forming and directing denominational thought and action;

in creating and maintaining a feeling of brotherly love and common dependence, and in uniting incoherent elements of those of our own faith. The position they hold to-day is both important and unique. State and secular colleges perhaps supply mental and physical training, but is that sufficient? Is there not lacking yet another qualification to a symmetrical education? Certainly there is. The moral nature, the most important and that most susceptible of cultivation, is neglected. However well one may have been trained both mentally and physically, yet is that one's education defective if moral training has not been made paramount.

Holding this view, we, your Committee, would earnestly and unhesitatingly recommend to those desiring an education, Howard College for boys and young men, Judson Female Institute for young ladies, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for ministers. These institutions, besides giving mental and physical training, give moral also. The Bible is a text-book in each.

It is with pleasure we note the success of these institutions during the last scholastic year. The Howard has had its interest-bearing debt reduced from $38,500, at 8 per cent., to $20,000, at 5 per cent., an annual saving in interest of over $2,000. Ten thousand dollars of the present debt is to be paid in five years, the remainder in ten. Last session was one of the most prosperous in the history of the school. Prospects are good for next session.

The Judson, for the first time in several years, is free of debt. The generous people of the State have nobly come to its rescue, and have paid the bonded indebtedness of $25,500. Besides, the school has been so efficiently managed that outstanding debts to the amount of $3,000 have been paid.

The Seminary is the foremost theological institution in the world.

W. R. Meadows,
Chairman.

Report on Ministerial Education.

The minister of God should be, as far as possible an approved workman, rightly dividing the Word of God and of whom none can be ashamed. In all ages, most of our leaders have been scholarly and well educated. Moses was "skilled in all the wisdom of the Egyptians." Paul was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel. Many of the apostles began rude and uneducated men, but they did not remain such very long. Mr. Spurgeon did not graduate at a college, yet he made himself a splendid scholar, and he was a builder of colleges for the education of young ministers. It is not the much, but the little learning, that is a dangerous thing. The demand from all quarters is for an intelligent and consecrated ministry—men of good common sense who are willing to give themselves wholly to the work. Such men are in demand and they will be supported by the churches.

The Lord never does anything for a man that he can do for himself. When he calls men into his work, it is their duty to prepare themselves for that work. The Board of Ministerial Education, with headquarters at East Lake, was created during the State Convention, at Tuscaloosa, in July, 1884. This Board, through the liberal gifts of our people, has, during the past thirteen years, assisted many young men who are to-day doing good service for the Master. There has been raised from $2,000 to $3,000 annually, and from twenty to forty worthy students for the ministry have been helped each year. Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary afford

superior opportunities for training and instruction, and our ministerial students can attend these institutions at a nominal cost. The present location of Howard College at East Lake affords fine advantages for the development of the preaching talent of theological students. They can find convenient places in which they can exercise every Sunday in the mission stations and villages in and around Birmingham. In these villages they may find future pastorates. We learn that ample accommodations will be furnished all worthy applicants during the coming session at the college.

Our Association has no beneficiary at school, but we can assist the young men who belong to other Associations. It is a source of regret that our contributions to the Board for the past year have not been sufficient to meet the necessary expenses. We urge the churches to contribute more liberally to the support of this work; one-half of the money to be paid by the first of November, and the remainder by the first of February. All contributions for this purpose should be sent to Bro. C. C. Jones, Secretary and Treasurer, East Lake, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Elliott,
Chairman.

Bro. W. B. Davidson offered the report on Sunday Schools, the Chairman, Bro. Dickson, being absent.

On motion, a report by Bro. G. G. Miles, President of the Sunday School Convention of Montgomery Association, was adopted as a supplemental report.

Bro. Ellis reported on behalf of committee appointed at last session concerning the formation of a Normal Training Class in Howard College and Judson Female Institute for the training of Sunday School teachers, that the matter was presented to the Baptist State Convention by the Committee on Denominational Education, but the Convention failed to adopt or to recommend the plan suggested.

Remarks by W. B. Davidson, J. F. Gable, Prof. Hogan and G. G. Miles, on Sunday School reports, and adopted:

Report on Sunday Schools.

To the Officers and Members of the Montgomery Baptist Association:

Brethren: Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report that they have endeavored to obtain the necessary information to enable them to put before the Association a true condition of our schools, and point out the work to be done in order to advance the interest of the schools within our bounds, but the failure of the schools to co-operate with us and furnish us the information asked for, places it beyond our power to make anything like a full report. From the few responses we have received we are glad to note that the schools are increasing in numbers and register a better average attendance, but we fear little or no progress has been made along other lines of development.

One brother writes: "Any suggestions from you or any of the committee as to how we may do better and more effective work will be gladly received." We believe this brother has voiced the sentiment of many of our Sunday School workers, and it comes to this Association as a Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us." The Sunday

School idea has grown, and instead of looking upon it as an appendage of the church, as formerly, it is now considered, and justly so, the church itself, and you can no more separate it from the church than you can the mid-week prayer meeting. What are the churches in this Association doing for the development of this branch of their work? How are they using this mighty instrument for disseminating the gospel truths and moulding the youthful mind for Christ and his cause? Brethren, we fear that its importance has not impressed itself upon you as it should, and that you are too easily satisfied with the slow progress we are making. Our people need to be informed of the advanced methods of conducting our schools and to be encouraged to adopt a higher standard of teaching. One of the ways to accomplish this is to request the ministers of this Association to study the subject and inform the churches through the Alabama Baptist, and, when opportunity offers, visit the churches in person and render personal aid in instructing the schools.

Another method is to form a Sunday School Association and hold Sunday School Conventions. This method, we are happy to know, you have already adopted, and we trust that the brethren you have placed in charge of the work will receive your hearty support and co-operation. A plan is a good thing, but unless it is carried into effect it becomes futile. Let not the plan of Sunday School work that you have adopted fall through for want of support. Stand by the brethren you have placed in charge of it and let this be a year of advance.

W. B. Davidson,
Chairman.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.

To the Montgomery Association:

In accordance with a resolution passed at the Association last year, at Wetumpka, a Sunday School Convention was organized on April 10th, at Fort Deposit, which lasted two days. The sessions of this meeting were replete with interest, and, we think, resulted in much good.

At this Convention the undersigned committee was appointed to investigate the condition of the Sunday School work within the bounds of this Association, and to endeavor to excite greater interest in the work among the various churches, and your committee was also requested, after canvassing the situation as best we could, to advise as to the feasibility and wisdom of recommending the organization of a State Sunday School Association, to be held at some time and place hereafter agreed upon.

Your committee addressed a circular letter to the churches, which was printed in the Alabama Baptist, and also printed in note form and sent to the churches, requesting a detailed report sent us as to the spiritual condition, as well as the numerical strength, of each Sunday School, but we regret to say that we only had a comparatively few responses to our request. We are pleased to state, however, that from the best information we can gather we are led to believe that the Sunday School work is growing in our Association, and, with a united effort put forth as suggested further on in this report, we are confident that the day is not distant when the churches in the Association will witness a marked improvement in the work, which, in our judgment, will strengthen all the various auxiliaries of the church.

After looking over the field carefully and considering our denominational work in all of its phases, we do not deem it wise to undertake

the organization of a State Convention, at this time, for the following reasons:

1. Our Sunday School work in the Association is not sufficiently well organized to warrant the success of the undertaking.

2. We think the expense of an extra Convention of this character would be too onerous and too taxing, generally, upon our people, to accomplish the good that might naturally be expected from a venture of such magnitude.

3. We recommend the more thorough organization of the Sunday School work in all of the Associations in the State, and, whenever it is possible, to organize a Sunday School Convention in each Association, and let each Associational Convention report to the annual meeting of its Association, and in this way the statistics of the Sunday School work of the State will be more carefully and thoroughly compiled.

4. We further recommend that at least one-half day and one night session be set aside at the State Convention to Sunday School work, at which time the Associations can make brief and concise reports of the work done within their bounds.

Respectfully submitted,

G. G. Miles, Ch'n,
J. R. McLendon,
J. C. Pope,
J. G. Harris,
W. B. Davidson,
Committee.

The Committee on Apportionment made its report.

Remarks by Bros. Ellis, Gay and Gunn, in which it was urged that the churches try and raise the amounts suggested.

On motion, the report was re-committed in order to change the apportionment for some of the churches and to add the Orphanage.

On motion, adjourned with prayer by Rev. M. M. Wood.

EVENING.

The Association assembled at 8 p. m. in Mass Meeting in interest of Sunday Schools.

Song service conducted by Prof. George W. Thomas.

Remarks by Prof. Thomas on music in the Sunday Schools.

Bro. G. G. Miles, President of the Sunday School Convention of the Montgomery Baptist Association, presided.

Rev. J. A. Howard discussed The Model School. The true idea of the Sunday School is, the study of the Bible, all the members in it, and a thoroughly trained corps of teachers.

Bro. T. L. Jones spoke on How to Prepare and Teach the Lesson. Teach systematically, have the map in your mind, and study earnestly and teach with discretion.

Adjourned till Friday 9:30 a. m. with prayer by Rev. J. F. Gable

FRIDAY.

MORNING.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. M. M. Wood.

Song. Prayer by Rev. W. C. Bledsoe.

Clerk read letter from Hayneville church, which had just been received.

Bro. J. N. Macon read the report on Baptist Young People's Unions, which, on motion, was adopted:

Report on Baptist Young People's Unions.

Your committee for a report on the B. Y. P. U., otherwise known as the Young People's Meeting, beg to submit the following:

At Chicago, in July, 1891, at a called convention, representatives from the Baptist churches throughout America met and launched forth upon the gospel waters of America a nobler and still newer ship of war in the cause of the Master's kingdom, the name of which as announced to the world was The Baptist Young People's Union of America. Upon its banner as it floated to the breeze was inscribed in glowing terms its purpose, as follows:

"The object of this organization shall be the unification of Baptist young people; their increased spirituality; their stimulation in Christian service: their edification in Scripture knowledge; their instruction in Baptist doctrine and history, and their enlistment in all missionary activity through existing denominational organizations."

Now for seven years this noble gospel ship has made remarkable progress in carrying to the young people of the churches of the North, South, East and West of the American continent the message of its principles thus enunciated, by reason of which these seven years has been a season of unprecedented growth among the young people of our land and country in Bible knowledge, missionary work and Baptist history. Nearly every State in the United States of America, as well as the Provinces of Canada, has met and organized into State or Local Unions. Our own State of Alabama was organized in December, 1894, since which time this peculiar work has advanced among us until today it is more largely understood, felt, appreciated and accepted, so that not only are we organized as a State Union, but our own Montgomery Association also—the B. Y. P. U. people coming up to the Association, holding their meeting a day or two before the regular meeting of the Association. Last year at the meeting of this Association at Wetumpka, Ala., the day preceding the convening of the Association, a thoroughly good meeting of the B. Y. P. U., composed of several of the churches within the bounds of this Association, was enjoyed. Last Monday and Tuesday, July 26th and 27th, the two days preceding the meetings of this session of this Association, were occupied by the B. Y. P. U., representing quite a number of the churches of this Association. A varied program was carried out, which was a real spiritual feast for the young people. Splendid addresses, touching the B. Y. P. U. and its work, were made by Dr. A. J. Dickinson, of Selma, and Rev. W. A. Hobson, of Birmingham. Not only is the B. Y. P. U. of our State and of our Association organized, but also in the communities where there are more Baptist churches than one the

young people unite as a whole, in quarterly or monthly meetings, as they may elect. We have reason to believe that quite all the churches within the bounds of this Association have each a B. Y. P. U. organization where it is at all possible to form one. The day has come when the churches are taking hold of this great movement among the young. We are exceedingly happy to be able to report of the rapid growth of local B. Y. P. U. organizations in the bounds of this Association, and the general and ready acceptance of its principles.

We are as yet unable to present with this report a complete enrollment of B. Y. P. U. organizations or the churches composing this Association, but we know that since our last year's meeting at Wetumpka one has been organized in the Wetumpka church, another at Prattville and Coosada, and we have reason to believe at other places. The four Baptist churches in the city of Montgomery have B Y. P. U. organizations, all of which are flourishing and doing a good work.

In conclusion, we congratulate the churches of this Association for their increased interest in the B. Y. P. U., with the prayer that the coming year may be one of yet greater consecration for each one of us and yet larger progress in the young people's work.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE B. EAGER,
J. N. MACON,
BRINSON MCGOWAN,
Committee.

The Clerk read the report on Indigent Ministers, in the absence of the Chairman, Bro. T. J. Threadgill. Discussed by Bros. Gay, Dickinson and Harris, amended and adopted:

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

To the Montgomery Baptist Association:

DEAR BRETHREN: We, your committee, deem it inexpedient to make a report upon this subject without first having briefly discussed the relative duties of pastors and churches. We believe it to be the imperative duty of every pastor of a church to devote his entire time and talents to the work of the ministry. Why? Because the New Testament Scriptures teach it; because our Savior himself instituted the practice; because the apostles followed it, and, finally, because if there was ever a time in the history of the Christian churches that there was need of a thoroughly equipped ministry to combat and to thwart the efforts made by infidels for the overthrow of Christ's kingdom, that time is now in the closing years of the nineteenth century. And the question arises, how shall we obtain such a ministry? Why, by relieving them of all care as to worldly matters, for no man can do the work of a pastor as it should be done whose mind is constantly bowed down beneath a load of care as to how he may perform some manual or mental labor apart from his ministerial work, by which he may supplement the meagre salary upon which he is forced to live while engaged in preaching the gospel. That this state of things does exist in many fields of labor, no one will deny. Nor will any thinking man deny the fact that such a condition greatly militates against the progress of our Lord's work. Such a state of things brethren, would be dreadful enough for our ministry to contemplate could they be assured that they would through life retain the strength and vigor of their young manhood: but to realize the fact that they will sooner

or later lose the strength of mind and body which enables them to battle with the difficulties and misfortunes of life, and probably be thrown upon the charity of the world, it is appalling. Now, brethren, we should ask ourselves the question, what is our duty to God's ministry? And we find no better answer than that which is recorded in the 9th chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Hear what he says: "Who goeth a warfare at his own expense? who planteth a vineyard and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock and eateth not of the milk of the flock? If we have sown unto you of spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel." Hence you see our duty is plain as taught in God's Word. But some one may say that when ministers are no longer able to preach the gospel, then the duty of the church to take care of them ceases; but, in our opinion, the obligation is just as binding upon us as Christians to take care of them in this condition as it was when they were in the prime of life and served their churches most effectually. Shall we, followers of Christ whose only mission was to do good, be less philanthropic than members of ordinary benevolent societies? They do not feel bound to aid each other only in life time, but even care for the families of their deceased members. What a reproof to those Christians who would refuse to help the families of those men of God who have spent their lives in preaching the gospel. Why, brethren, it is one of the most emphatic doctrines of the New Testament that we should bear each other's burdens; that we should distribute to the necessities of the saints; that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. And in view of the obligation resting upon the churches to take care of God's ministers who need help, we, your committee, would most earnestly recommend that a fund be raised by the churches of this Association and turned over to the State Board of Missions for the relief of needy ministers. Let our Association, brethren, out of love for the cause of Christ and for humanity, be placed upon record as being determined never to permit God's ministers, who have grown old and infirm, to suffer, but on the other hand to supply them with all the necessary comforts of life, and let us esteem it not only a privilege but a duty to contribute of our means to the accomplishment of this end.

While we are thankful that it is the privilege of your committee, after careful inquiry, to state that, so far as we have been able to ascertain, there are no indigent ministers within the bounds of this Association, still we feel that it is our duty to urge you to take steps, even now, to devise means for the relief of ministers who may need your help in the future. Respectfully submitted.

T. J. THREADGILL,
Chairman.

Report on New and Weak Churches was read by Bro. R. H. Hudson, discussed by Brethren Gay and Hudson, and adopted:

REPORT ON NEW AND WEAK CHURCHES.

To the Officers and Members of Montgomery Baptist Association:

DEAR BRETHREN: Your Committee on New and Weak Churches beg to submit the following report:

The report of your committee had to deal with churches now in existence and those in contemplation or to be established. As regards

the former, they are here, and while we are glad to say in small numbers, still they are here and claim our aid and sympathy. The two churches which seem to demand our immediate attention are Hope Hull and Hayneville. As to the needs of the churches, we prefer the pastors to make their statement in speaking to this report. Before aiding in the establishment of a new church, it is the judgment and recommendation of your committee that the field in which the church is to be established should be thoroughly canvassed by a committee, appointed by the Executive Committee for that purpose, and the prospect of its becoming a self-sustaining church if established. "When I am weak then am I strong" does not apply to churches (of course, in the light of which I use the quotation here), and the multiplicity of weak churches retard the work of the Association. While we hold to this theory, we recognize the fact that there are a number of places within the bounds of the Association where are congregated one or more Baptist families who long to hear the word of God preached by a minister of our denomination, and we feel that they should be accorded this privilege. To meet the requirement we recommend that mission stations be established at such points, and we recommend to the ministers serving contiguous churches that they hold a day's service with them once or twice a month—a service which our lay brethren could well assist in. We further recommend, if practical, that a missionary colporteur be appointed by the Association to visit these places and hold a meeting of a week at least, and distribute Baptist literature.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. Hudson,
Chairman.

On motion, Bro. A. J. Dickinson was given time to present the interests of the Judson Female Institute.

Bro. J. B. Gerald, Chairman of Committee, read the report on the Orphanage, which was discussed by Brethren C. L. Gay and J. G. Harris and Sister S. C. Ansley (matron of the Orphanage), and adopted:

Report on Orphanage.

The Orphanage is located at Evergreen, 80 miles south of Montgomery, on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, and it is the property of the Southern Baptist Convention. It has been in existence about five years, and cost about $5,500. It consists of eighty acres of land, thirty acres in farm, thirty in pasture and twenty in woods. There is a ten-room brick house, large barn and other houses on the place. All its debts are paid and it is in no way encumbered; all of which is due to a wise and able management.

Seventy children have been received into the Home—thirty-three boys and thirty-seven girls. Thirty-two have gone out by adoption. The children attend the Agricultural School, where no tuition is charged. They attend Sunday School and church. The boys are taught to do farm work, and the girls to do various kinds of house work. It costs from $6.00 to $7.25 per month to care for each child, while according to the report of our Methodist brethren it costs their institution $12.75 per month for each child. The old building is entirely too small, and is badly out of repair, and should be remodeled and enlarged at once so as to properly care for the children now there and those who are to come. A dining room, cook room, laundry,

bath room and at least six bed rooms are badly needed and should be supplied at once. They also need water works. Brother Stewart has all this work planned and commenced, but his hands are tied for the want of money. This work ought to be completed by all means before the rainy season commences, for a portion of the building is so exposed as to cause damage and endanger the health of the children.

We urge and entreat, most earnestly, every Sunday School and church in this Association to set apart one Sunday in August, or September, at latest, to take a collection for this purpose, and forward it immediately to Rev. J. W. Stewart, Financial Secretary, at Evergreen. The Board, the Financial Secretary and the Matron have managed the affairs of the Home in an excellent manner, and are entitled to your liberal, hearty and prompt support, and you are most earnestly entreated to give it to them.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Gerald,
Chairman.

On motion of Bro. Gay, a collection was taken for the Orphanage amounting to $10.51.

Report on Woman's Work was read by Rev. W. J. Elliott, in the absence of the Chairman, Cabot Lull, discussed by Bro. Dickinson, and adopted:

Report on Woman's Work.

To the Montgomery Baptist Association:

Your Committee on Woman's Work has been greatly embarrassed both by the magnitude of the field and the want of statistical material upon which to base a report. Particularly is this true of the territory embraced within the bounds of this Association.

The value and efficiency of organization is one of the great facts, not to say discoveries, of the present century, and need not be argued here. Every department of human activity or industry has organized for united effort, thus securing the maximum of possible results with the minimum of labor and cost. Woman's work in the field of Christian service must follow the same direction. By organizing into a society, with an auxiliary in every church, opportunity is presented to arouse the enthusiasm, enlist the sympathy and employ the talent, otherwise latent, which is always to be found in the membership of every church.

The Woman's Missionary Union raised and paid into the treasuries of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention during the last fiscal year, in cash, the sum of $53,407.64, and a further sum of $83,937.31 in value in offerings and supplies has been forwarded direct to the missionaries in the various fields. This has been accomplished without any cost as to salaries, for none are paid. But it is not alone in missionary enterprises that woman's work is done. In every church where a Ladies' Aid Society exists, there is a zealous and busy circle of faithful women, "full of good works," supplementing the church committees, and coming, with unfailing constancy and courage, to the rescue of every struggling and sometimes despairing cause. In the opinion of your committee, a society, auxiliary in purpose if not in name, should be organized in every church, including among its officers a secretary, whose duty it should be to keep a record of all its work, making a report in duplicate annually, both to the church and to the parent society at Baltimore, or, better

still, to a State General Committee. For this purpose your committee reports and recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association earnestly advises the organization, in every church within its bounds, of a society for distinctively woman's work auxiliary to the Woman's Missionary Union, as recommended by the late Southern Baptist Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

CABOT LULL,
Chairman.

Rev. M. M. Wood extended a hearty invitation to the delegates appointed by this Association to the Baptist State Convention, which meets at East Lake Friday before the second Sunday in November, 1897, and further asked that every church send a delegate, as they desire a large attendance.

The report on Temperance was read by Rev. W. D. Gay, Chairman.

On motion of Bro. J. G. Harris, the report was received and ordered recorded in the minutes.

On motion of Bro. Merritt, the Clerk was instructed to print in the minutes the Articles of Faith.

The Financial Exhibit was read by Bro. J. I. Lamar, of the Committee, and adopted. (See back of minutes.) Also read the Treasurer's Report, which was adopted, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Montgomery Baptist Association
In account with JESSE H. DICKSON.

1896.	DR.		
Aug.	To Cash for Minutes	$30 45	
	Collection for Orphanage	9 36	
	State Missions	15 43	
	Foreign Missions	13 12	
	Home Missions	14 00	
	Howard College	1 00	$83 36
	CR.		
	By am't paid W. C. Bledsoe	$43 55	
	J. C. Pope	30 45	
	J. W. Stewart	9 36	$83 36

ASSOCIATIONAL PURPOSES.

Balance on hand last report, in bank		$ 5 58	
	From Bethel church	8 30	
	Collections at Ex. Com. meetings	3 03	
	Collection S. S. Con., Ft. Deposit	3 47	$20 38
	CR.		
By am't for printing circulars, Ass'n letters, programs, postage, &c			$ 7 75
Balance on hand			$12 63

J. H. DICKSON, Treasurer.

Statement was made by Bro. Gay concerning Treasurer W. B. Holmes, who cannot serve, and, on motion of Bro. Geo. W. Ellis, Bro. Pope was elected to serve as Treasurer.

The report on Apportionment was presented by Bro. Ellis, and, on motion, adopted:

REPORT ON APPORTIONMENT.

CHURCHES.	Missions.	Ministerial Education.	Colportage.	Greensboro Church.	Orphanage.	TOTALS.
Adams Street	$ 300 00	$ 30 00	$ 15 00	$ 15 00	$ 50 00	$ 410 00
Bethany	40 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	55 00
Bethel, Fort Deposit	85 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	115 00
Bethesda	30 00	4 00	2 50	2 50	4 00	43 00
Clayton Street	200 00	30 00	10 00	10 00	30 00	280 00
Coosada	15 00	2 50	2 00	2 00	2 50	24 00
Deatsville	40 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	55 00
First Montgomery	700 00	100 00	50 00	50 00	125 00	1025 00
Friendship	20 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	31 00
Hayneville	25 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	36 00
Hope Hull	10 00	2 50	2 00	2 00	2 50	19 00
Lowndesboro	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Mt. Hebron	25 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	36 00
Mt. Lebanon	20 00	3 00	2 50	2 50	3 00	31 00
Mt. Zion	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Pine Level	50 00	5 00	2 50	2 50	5 00	65 00
Prattville	85 00	10 00	5 00	5 00	10 00	115 00
Ramer	30 00	4 00	2 50	2 50	4 00	43 00
Shoal Creek	10 00	2 50	2 00	2 00	2 50	19 00
South Montgomery	10 00	2 50	2 00	2 00	2 50	19 00
Wetumpka	180 00	15 00	7 50	7 50	20 00	30 00
TOTALS	$1975 00	$ 250 00	$ 128 00	$ 128 00	$ 300 00	$2781 00

Your committee have reduced the apportionment to all the churches, with one exception, in the hope of stimulating the membership to make an extra effort to bring up their contribution to the amount apportioned each.

Respectfully submitted,

C. A. GUNN,
W. B. DAVIDSON,
GEO. W. ELLIS,
Committee.

The Committee on Nominations reported as follows:

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

The committee recommend that the next meeting of this Association be held with the Baptist church at Lowndesboro on———, 1898; that Bro. C. Johnson preach the introductory sermon, and that Bro. J. L. Thompson preach the missionary sermon.

Delegate to Southern Baptist Convention—Rev. J. F. Gable; alternate, Rev. W. D. Gay.

Delegates to State Convention—Rev. W. J. Elliott, Rev. Geo. B. Eager, J. C. Pope, G. G. Miles, Rev. E. F. Baber, Rev. B. A. Jackson, Rev. G. W. Townsend, J. I. Lamar, Cabot Lull and Rev. J. F. Gable.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. DAWSON,
J. R. MCLENDON,
A. H. EUBANKS,
Committee.

Rev. W. J. Elliott urged the delegates to come to Lowndesboro next year.

Bro. Ellis reported concerning resolution passed at the last association, as follows:

Your committee to whom was referred the resolutions of the last meeting of this association recommending to the next State Convention the establishment of a Board of Ministerial Education, beg leave to report that the resolution was brought before the annual meeting of the State Board of Missions just preceding the last Convention, and upon the recommendation of the said Board, the State Convention established a Board of Ministerial Education with headquarters at East Lake, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. Elliott,
Geo. W. Ellis,
J. C. Pope,
Committee.

On motion of Bro. Elliott 500 copies of minutes were ordered printed.

On motion, the Clerk was voted remainder of minute fund, if any, for his services.

On motion of Rev. W. D. Gay, to reconsider the vote by which the report on Temperance was voted to be recorded, remarks were made by Bros. J. G. Harris, W. D. Gay, J. I. Lamar R. W. B. Merritt and J. T. Boyd.

Motion to reconsider prevailed by vote of 10 to 9.

On motion by Bro. J. G. Harris to amend, the report was discussed by Bros. G. G. Miles, J. G. Harris and W. D. Gay.

Motion to amend was defeated by vote of 8 to 7.

On motion, the report was adopted, as follows:

Report on Temperance.

Your committee does not think it could make a better report than the following advanced action against the legalized, organized, demonized liquor traffic, adopted by the General Association of Kentucky:

"We would put on record again our unqualified condemnation of the saloon business. Our opposition to it deepens with the years. We believe that the business is a sin against God; a disease in the State; a blot upon our civilization; a shame to the churches; a foe to prosperity; a menace to society; an adversary to the cause of Christ; an enemy to the home; and a destroyer of men, in body, mind and soul. There is not a grace that adorns human nature, not a virtue that gives strength to man or to society or to State, not a talent that serves mankind, not an interest that pertains to human welfare, nor a cause that looks toward human redemption, but what is blighted, or weakened, or perverted or hindered by this Satan of modern progress. And there is not a sin or crime or vice or shame known to our courts that by it is not produced or strengthened and widened. There is not another enemy of our people that does not find in this its most faithful ally. Any complicity with this business is unchristian. To engage in it as distiller, wholesale or retail dealer, or to have it in con-

nection with a hotel, to have money invested in it; to loan money for its support; to rent property for its use; to frequent the saloon as a patron; in short, every vital connection with the business we look upon as inconsistent with the Christian profession. We announce it as the sense of this body that no person should be retained in the fellowship of a Baptist church who is engaged in the manufacture or in any way in complicity with the sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. Your committee would recommend that the Constitution be so changed that hereafter no church be allowed representation in this body which retains in its fellowship members engaged in the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. Finally, brethren, your committee would press home upon you the truth, that when we have, as Christians, separated ourselves wholly from this business, still there is a weighty responsibility resting upon us, as citizens. We would recommend that the committee to be appointed for next year co-operate with like committees from other denominations in securing better temperance legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. D. GAY,
Chairman.

Adjourned, with prayer by Rev. J. L. Thompson, to meet next session with Lowndesboro church, twenty miles west of Montgomery, on the Western Railway of Alabama, time to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

T. L. JONES, Moderator.

J. C. POPE, Clerk and Treasurer.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	State Missions.	Orphanage.	Ministerial Education.	Minutes.	Associational Purposes Undesignated.	Howard College Building.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Missions.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Orphanage.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. School Expenses.	WOMAN'S SOCIETY'S. Foreign and State Missions.	WOMAN'S SOCIETY'S. Orphanage.	WOMAN'S SOCIETY'S. Church and other Purposes.	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, etc.	Sunbe's for Missions.	Judson Institute.	Church Building and Repairs.	Value of Church Property.	Money Expended at Home.
†Adams Street	$ 70 44	$ 275 44	$ 180 14	$ 75 38	$	$ 3 50	$	$	$	$	$ 217 56	$	$	$ 138 53	$120 00	$ 429 61	$ 1 50	$ 200 00	$3580 22	$ 15000 00	$
Bethany		10 00	15 00	7 28		1 00	11 00				3 50				150 00	2 00				700 00	12 00
*Bethel	5 44				12 50	3 00						10 00	5 15	132 82	264 83	17 40		60 06		6000 00	
Bethesda	2 50	1 00	2 00			1 50									75 00					600 00	
Coosada		2 51	5 91			95									120 00				51 37		
†Clayton Street	51 76	27 00	67 92	31 00	19 34	3 00				10 00				126 00	1100 00	450 50			287 87	5000 00	
*Deatsville		5 02	2 33	6 00	1 52	2 00		7 27	6 36				4 30	2 00	142 00	700 00				200 00	
First Montgomery	176 78	141 91	297 71	23 00		5 00	5 00	1065 00	44 70	125 00	232 31				2500 00	1038 50		200 00	237 70	25000 00	160 00
Friendship				1 15		1 00					2 35				18 00				18 00	400 00	
Hayneville			11 33	9 87		1 00												27 50			15 00
Hope Hull			1 15			75									38 60						
‡Lowndesboro	9 89	4 00	4 75	5 00	27 50	2 00					8 52			4 70	250 00		10 38	25 00		2500 00	150 00
Mt. Hebron	1 75	1 00	2 00			1 50									100 00					750 00	
Mt. Lebanon						1 30															
Mt. Zion	24 30		26 75		7 50	2 00		20 00		6 00					250 00			12 00		1000 00	
¶Pine Level	3 27	3 00				1 55									150 00					800 00	
Prattville	16 40	11 26	15 00	13 72		2 50		5 00		12 90		38 00	9 00			28 00	9 58				
Ramer	1 50					1 50					4 00				50 00					500 00	
South Montgomery	7 13	16 95	1 13	8 50		1 50		4 00			70 00			146 65	488 00	326 17	50 31		638 55	1800 00	
Wetumpka	4 30		11 83		5 43	2 00				14 45	31 43	28 35			400 00	71 33	30 27			8000 00	
TOTAL	$375 40	$ 223 75	$ 651 28	$ 180 90	$73 79	$38 55	$16 00	$1101 79	$62 06	$ 158 35	$ 552 70	$76 35	$18 45	$ 550 70	$7500 83	$2864 41	$ 102 04	$ 651 28	$4813 44	$ 63250 00	$ 337 00

499.09

‡B. Y. P. U.—Adams Street, $88.62; Clayton Street, $23.77. *Bible and Colportage—Bethel, $27.11; Deatsville, $2.60. ‡Ladies' Mission Society of Lowndesboro, $10.00 for Miss Kelly
¶Pine Level—$3.77 for India Famine Fund.

10 57

Respectfully submitted, W. V. BELL, W. B. HOLMES, J. I. LAMAR, Committee.

STATISTICS OF MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK AND POST-OFFICE.	S. S. SUPERINTEND'T AND POST-OFFICE.	Membership 1896.	INCR'SE By Baptism.	INCR'SE By Letter.	INCR'SE By Restoration.	DECR'SE By Letter.	DECR'SE By Exclusion.	DECR'SE By Erasure.	DECR'SE By Death.	Membership 1897.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Officers & Teach's	Pupils.	Av'age Attend'ce	Bapt'z'd from S.S.	Vols. in Library.	Periodicals Tak'n	No. Sub. to Den. Paper	No. Ordained Minis's	Preaching Sabbath.
Adams Street	Montgom'y	Wm. D. Gay	J. C. Pope, Montgomery	B. A. Blakey, Montg'y	465	35	60	6	39	1		2	521	14	162	116	19	200	160	20	3	every
Bethany	Elmore	C. J. Bentley	J. S. Turner, Ware	W. P. Dawson, Ware	65	9	2					1	85	5	25	20	3		2	7		
Bethel, (Ft. Deposit)	Lowndes		T. J. Hairston, Ft. Deposit	C. H. Priester, Ft. Deposit	342	9	10		12			1	318		168	75	7			11	1	4th
Bethesda	Montgom'y	W. C. Avant	J. T. Boyd, Ada		40				2	1			37									
Clayton Street	Montgom'y	J. L. Thompson	W. T. New, Montgomery	Frank Allen, Montg'y	272	13	15	1	23	3			275	22	179	112	4	73		12	1	every
Coosada	Elmore	W. J. Elliott	D. J. Moore, Coosada	R. H. Hudson, Millbrook	40	2	2		2			3	39	8	24	25	2		36			3rd
Deatsville	Elmore	Geo. E. Brewer	M. J. E. Estes, Deatsville	J. I. Lamar, Deatsville	75	1	2		11	1		1	65	8	53					6		2nd
First Montgomery	Montgom'y	Geo. B. Eager	J. B. Gerald, Montgom'y	M. Cody, Jr., Montg'y	715	33	18		26	2		6	734	44	306	240	20	1800			4	every
Friendship	Montgom'y	J. J. Nelson	F. M. Sullivant, Raif		57			1	1	1			56								1	
Hayneville	Lowndes	I. N. Langston	Miss T. Wil'ms, Haynv'le	J. F. Varner, Hayneville	41								41	6	47	24						4th
Hope Hull	Montgom'y	C. Johnson	E. W. Crenshaw, H. Hull	J. G. Johnson, Hope Hull	16		1						17	6	42	30						
Lowndesboro	Lowndes	W. J. Elliott	Frank Gordon, Low'boro	P. N. Cilley, Lowndesboro	24	3	2						29	5	36		3		45	7		1st
Mt. Hebron	Elmore	L. H. Hastie	John Hogan, Speigner's	R. B. James, Elmore	95	2	2		1				98	8	40	25						
Mt. Lebanon	Montgom'y	B. A. Jackson	W. F. Niblett, Woodley		42		2				1	1	42									3rd
Mt. Zion	Montgom'y	N. C. Und'rwood	J. G. Mills, Chambers		30				4				26							8		4th
Pine Level	Montgom'y	J. S. Yarbrough	J. H. Lee, Pine Level	A. H. Eubanks, Pine Ley'l	101	1			3	3		4	92	9	43	35						4th
Prattville	Autauga	A. T. Sims	R. M. Anderson, Pratt'v'le	R. M. Anderson, Pratt'v'le	115		19	1	5	3	15	6	136	15	173	110						2d & 3d
amer	Montgom'y	A. E. Pinckard	J. J. McLendon, Ramer	J. R. McLendon, Naftel	48				5				43	4	20	15				8	1	2nd
South Montgomery	Montgom'y	J. F. Gable	Miss May Hill, Montg'y	J. B. Collier, Montg'y	46	17	41		2				102	8	105	70	10	200	100		2	every
Wetumpka	Elmore	W. J. Elliott	C. C. Edwards, Wetum'ka	C. C. Edwards, Wetum'ka	105		4					2	107	8	59	35			17			2d & 4th
TOTAL					2764	125	180	9	136	15	16	27	2893	170	1572		68	2273	468	77	13	

2884

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Montgomery Baptist Association.

II. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union. Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members, above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the delegates from any church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by churches, and in that event each church shall be entitled to three votes.

III. The delegates when convened shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk; these officers shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen. Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have power to call a meeting at any time or place; which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

IV. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority but what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. She nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches, united under the constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel, and other means, in accordance with that gospel, to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

V. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition, and by those delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles adopted by this Association.

VI. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, and all other information which the church may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

VII. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over, through the

Committee on Finance, to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

VIII. This Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session.

IX. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed; nor of any difficulty between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the xviii chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration, and act upon them at their discretion.

X. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

XI. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

XII. This constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the churches.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

I. Of the Scriptures.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. Of the True God.—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal to every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death; being risen from the dead he is now enthroned in heaven, and, uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. Of Justification.—That the great gospel blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through his own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again, that regeneration consists in

giving a holy disposition to the mind, and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. Of the Perseverance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by his laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII. Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. Of Civil Government.—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the kings of the earth.

XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.